

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

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Figure 1B illustrates what happens to the kissing unbond defect 100 when tensile force is applied to the specimen surface 102 directly above the defect 100 generally in the direction of the arrow, A. If there is no defect in the area where the tensile force is applied, the tensile force causes little or no surface displacement, as indicated generally in the area of the surface 102 at reference numeral, X. If, however, the tensile force is applied to the surface 102 directly above a defect 100, as shown in Figure 1B, the force will create a noticeable surface displacement in the direction of the arrow, A, as indicated generally in the area of the surface 102 at reference numeral, D, as the walls 106, 108 of the defect 100, (which define gap 101 Figure 1A), separate or otherwise change in their degree of contact, thereby creating [[an]] a larger [[air]] gap or enclosed vacuum 103 having different thermal (i.e. heat flow) characteristics than the surrounding material in the specimen 104. Gap 101, 103 may be an air gap or a gap that encloses a vacuum. Referring to Figure 1A and then to Figure 1B, it can be seen that the evaluation of the specimen 104 includes varying the degree of contact between the walls 106, 108 of the kissing unbond defect 100 in a way that does not cause the walls 106, 108 to intersect the surface 102 of the specimen 104. By varying the degree of contact between the walls 106, 108, gap 101 is enlarged 103. Enlarged gap 103 exacerbates the heat flow characteristics of the defect thereby enhancing the detectability of the defect 100. The method and apparatus of the present invention performs a non-destructive test in that the application of tensile forces does not exacerbate the defect 100 (i.e. does not leave the defect any worse after the test than it was before the test). Thus there is no migration of defect 100 toward surface 102.